



Superior Court of California County of Riverside

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Richard T. Fields, Presiding Judge

(951) 955-5536

(electronic version available at:

<http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/newsmedia/newsmedia.htm>)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES CIVIL TRIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY: In December 2007 Riverside County Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard Fields stated that the intention of the court regarding civil trials was to preserve the rights of citizens who are entitled to have their disputes tried in a reasonable manner and within the time limits prescribed by law.

The court is pleased to announce that in the first four months of this year the work of the judges of the court's Civil Division, with assistance from retired judges at the Hawthorne court, has paid impressive dividends. As of December 20, 2007 there were 227 active civil cases aged 54 months and older. Of this original number, 147 have already been adjudicated; 47 by judgment, 54 by dismissal, and 46 through settlements. Two cases have been transferred to other counties, leaving only 78 cases. Fourteen of those cases have hearings scheduled and are pending dismissal, mostly because settlements have already been reached.

In addition, there were 459 non five-year cases set for trial in Riverside County between January 1 and March 31, 2008. Of that number, 270 have since been adjudicated, leaving 189 cases with future hearings set. As Presiding Judge Fields noted, "The commitment of the judges of the court's Civil Division, working together and committed to resolving civil cases, has been truly amazing. Their efforts are enhancing the court's ability to help resolve a huge percentage of our pending civil cases, tremendously reducing the pressure on an overburdened system. Additionally, the court thanks the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts for their graciousness in providing additional judicial resources and promoting access to justice for civil litigants."

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